



KARO ECHO Newsletter

KARO ECHO

Serving the communities
of El Cerrito and
Kensington, California

Web: www.karoecho.net

Facebook:
[KARO ECHO facebook](#)

Email: info@karoecho.net

Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2nd Monday of each month
7:00 pm

(on the air for now)

Arlington Park Clubhouse,
1120 Arlington Blvd,
El Cerrito, CA

The next meetings are:

Apr. 13th, 2020

May 11th, 2020

[Meeting minutes are on the website](#) in the past events page.

What's New

KARO ECHO Monthly Meeting, Apr 13th, 1900 — **ON THE AIR! 146.415**

Because we can't have a in-person meeting this month with the COVID-19 shelter in place order, the KARO ECHO meeting will be held on the air 146.415 MHz simplex, starting at 1900. The agenda will likely be shorter than most in person meetings but will cover some follow-up on the March 14th SET, the April 4 Net control class and the potential expansion of the weekly Thursday net to include local FRS/GMRS nets connecting to a ham operator hub. As a backup for those with poor simplex copy, a backup Zoom link will be provided by email to provide another way to participate in the meeting.

Thanks for your participation the March 14th SET

Great job to all those who participated in the March 14th SET, we had about 20 operators. In particular, thanks to Armando KE6HCE, Edward KM6UBY and Howdy KE6BEE for taking Net Control shifts, as well as Natalie KM6UCF, Howdy KE6BEE, and David KJ6AAT for taking shifts as the EOC operator. Everyone did great in these rolls and it was important to practice and demonstrate multiple operators with these skills. We encourage all operators to practice various roles to build a deep pool of radio resources. If you want to review some of the radio operation, Rob K6RJM made a [Recording of the SET net freq.](#) and Howdy KE6BEE made a [recording of the EOC freq.](#) The EOC recording did not copy the first shift EOC operator (Natalie KM6UCF). Also, there was bleed over on the EOC recording from traffic on 146.505 (30kHz away) about halfway through the SET when there wasn't other traffic (at least at the nearby radio location where this recording was made). This serves as a reminder that strong signals in physical (and frequency) proximity can experience interference and/or de-sense reception of a distant/weak signals.

April 4 Net control class with C8 a success

Diane KK6RED, David KJ6AAT and Howdy KE6BEE taught a net control class for C8 the county wide CERT organization. While this was originally going to be an in-person training, Diane did a great job of transitioning to a Zoom online conference during the COVID-19 shelter in place (followed by on-the air practice on the WA6HAM repeater). There was a great reception to this class across the county and we inspired many groups to expand the scope of their net trainings. [The class recording is available here.](#)

LOCAL NETS**KARO ECHO NET**

146.415 MHz Simplex

Thursday eve, immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but never before 1900 hours local time.

West Contra County ACS/RACES Net

145.110 MHz repeater

(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Thursday: 1845 local time

Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net

3893 KHz

Thursday: 1835 local time

American Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA)

WW6BAY Repeater

443.975 MHz

TX =5 MHz, PL 100 Hz

Wednesday: 2000 local time

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Hal KK6NDF

Treasurer: Larry KK6GIO

Secretary: Natalie KM6UCF

Emergency Coordinator:
(also newsletter and
net coordinator)

Howdy KE6BEE

Webmaestro: Rob K6RJM

What's New *(continued)***KARO ECHO SET, March 14th**

Because it was right at the beginning of the COVID-19 public gather restrictions (the City of El Cerrito had already announced no public meetings in their buildings) the simulated emergency test (SET) did not operate from the City Hall EOC radio, as before. Rather the three operators who took shifts, operated from different locations in the city, including home locations and mobile on Albany hill. Likewise, the three net control operators used home locations as well as mobile on Highland in Richmond Annex. There was also a bit of rain that day, so the mobile operations were a bit more limited than in the past. Still, we have about 20 operators and great distribution of the roles of EOC and NCS across multiple operators. Some takeaways from the training include, incomplete message forms, the need for better tactical call assignments, and consistent FCC call usage. The modified ICS-213 form used by KARO ECHO does contain some optional fields, but the core ICS-213 elements should always be there: To, Date/Time, Body, From. To and From entries should have at minimum a job position, rather than just a person's name, as the person in a given role may change over time as shifts change. NCS should assign the tactical call sign, so they are in control of how operators are identified, but it may make more sense for an operator to recommend a tactical call that they feel is most informative to describe their position/role. The street name tactical calls that were assigned on the basis of reported location were not a great example of meaningful call signs. There is still some inconsistency in the use of FCC calls and tactical call signs. This is complicated by the fact that we pass traffic off the net frequency, so operators end up needing to use their FCC call more often to obey FCC rules. The FCC call should be used at the beginning and end of a group of transmissions on any given frequency, and when there has been more than 10min since the last use. Still, if the FCC call is needed, the tactical should also be used to provide clarity to those who may not have recorded a particular FCC call associated with its tactical. The FCC call can be tacked on to the end of a transmission as an ID only after the rest of a transmission including tactical call.

Welcome New Hams

New El Cerrito licenses issued: none in past month

New Kensington licenses issued: none in past month

Important! - Membership Renewals are Due

It is never too late to renew your KARO ECHO membership dues, if you haven't already done so. You can pay Treasurer Larry KK6GIO at the Monday meeting or mail to P.O. Box 2025, El Cerrito, CA, 94530-3651. \$30 for individual membership, or \$40 for family membership. Thanks.

Activities

Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the volunteer stations who have been taking turns as Net Control Stations (NCS) each Thursday. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. The regular NCS roster has 9 operators. There are opportunities for others to fill in when a regular station has a scheduling conflict and there is always room to add more stations to the rotation. [Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

Below are the current scheduled dates for each operator. The [KARO ECHO google calendar](#) also has these assignments and can be found at the bottom of the events page. Add to your electronic calendar By pressing the "+GoogleCalendar" button in the lower right.

Callsign	Name	Assigned Dates (skipped: 7/4/2019, 11/28/2019)						
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	6/20/2019	8/29/2019	10/31/2019	1/9/2020	3/12/2020	5/14/2020	7/16/2020
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	6/27/2019	9/5/2019	11/7/2019	1/16/2020	3/19/2020	5/21/2020	7/23/2020
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	7/11/2019	9/12/2019	11/14/2019	1/23/2020	3/26/2020	5/28/2020	7/30/2020
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow	7/18/2019	9/19/2019	11/21/2019	1/30/2020	4/2/2020	6/4/2020	8/6/2020
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas	7/25/2019	9/26/2019	12/5/2019	2/6/2020	4/9/2020	6/11/2020	8/13/2020
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto	8/1/2019	10/3/2019	12/12/2019	2/13/2020	4/16/2020	6/18/2020	8/20/2020
NI6A	Don Simon	8/8/2019	10/10/2019	12/19/2019	2/20/2020	4/23/2020	6/25/2020	8/27/2020
KM6TCB	Dave Roth	8/15/2019	10/17/2019	12/26/2019	2/27/2020	4/30/2020	7/2/2020	9/3/2020
KK6ZPM	Karen Fenton-Leong	8/22/2019	10/24/2019	1/2/2020	3/5/2020	5/7/2020	7/9/2020	9/10/2020

Net control is a skill that many operators should have and regularly practice. Please contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

Thursday Net Training Exercises

Following the net check-ins every Thursday at 1900, KARO ECHO usually runs a training exercise to learn and practice skills that are important for successful disaster communications. [A list of training exercises](#) is posted and maintained on the training page of the website.

Our weekly net check-ins counts for 2020 are up with two recent nets of 24 operators. We are averaging 18 per week for the year, where previously years averaged 14-15/week. A special welcome back to Jamuel KM6HBO who has resumed net control and now has a great signal into the KARO ECHO area, even operating simplex from his new location in Berkeley. Overall, it is great to see that more operators are active. Thanks for your participation. Keep it up!

About KARO ECHO

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The next meetings are:

- ♦ Apr. 13th, 2020
- ♦ May 11th, 2020

Yearly membership dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Payments can be given to the Treasurer at monthly meetings or mailed to the address below. Participation is welcome independent of paid membership, but only licensed amateur radio operators who are dues paying KARO ECHO members will be allowed to vote on KARO ECHO business. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications is welcome.

Mail to: KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: www.karoecho.net

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: info@karoecho.net

KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/> Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

KARO-ECHO Frequencies

The KARO ECHO primary frequency is 146.415 MHz simplex. Our secondary frequency is 146.475 MHz simplex, creating a 60 KHz spread between operating frequencies that will reduced adjacent frequency de-sensing.

Outreach, Education and Licensing

EMCOMM related videos

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLIn4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

Post Camp Fire GMRS organization

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&v=aZiSC4sgKYw&feature=emb_logo

ELMERING

Elmering/Mentoring is available by request. Email info@karoecho.net

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of disaster radio communications topics at <https://www.karoecho.net> website and/or request specific literature to be created.

KAROECHO.Net Website

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page (<https://www.karoecho.net/events>) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ◆ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ◆ If you haven't already filled out the **JOIN** form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ◆ A follow-through novice primer has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more. See: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>
- ◆ Also a new Dual-Band antenna primer for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-ducky world is at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view
- ◆ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ◆ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
- ◆ Following the Thursday evening net check-in, there is often a training session and/or discussion.
- ◆ All recent KARO ECHO **Minutes will be found at our Past Events page** We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page.](#)

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email info@karoecho.net